



Gate Pā School
Pukehinahina

WHĀNAU – SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Tuesday 22nd September, 2026

Newsletter No.9



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Empowering Tamariki to Become Rangatira Who Value the Past to Create the Future

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Rochelle Jensen

Kia ora e te whānau! Talofa lava! Mālō e lelei! Ni sa bula! Kia orana! Fakaalofa lahi atu! Kam na mauri! Namaste! Vanakkam! Sat Sri Akaal! Ayubowan! Mabuhay! Selamat datang! Sawasdee! Mingalaba! Asalaam Walaikum! Hallo! G'day! Howzit! Bonjour! Konnichiwa! Nǐ hǎo! Olá! Hello!

What a term!

It has probably been our busiest yet, with Matariki wearable arts, senior sports exchanges, the kapa haka festival, cultural celebrations and our major fundraiser all packed in. Through it all, we've stayed firmly focused on progress across the core learning areas, including some exciting work in Science. We've also navigated what felt like a perfect storm of staff and student illness along the way!

Learning Progress to Celebrate

Our continued refinement of explicit teaching, clear learning progressions and high expectations is making a difference. While this week's pānui (newsletter) puts a spotlight on the many **cultural opportunities** offered across our kura, our latest standardised assessments (PATs) in Reading and Maths also give us plenty to celebrate.

- Maths: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are performing above the national norm.
- Reading Comprehension: Years 4 and 5 are at the national norm, with Year 6 above.

NB. PAT assessments are not available at every year level, so these results reflect only the year groups assessed.

Reporting to Parents

Individual student progress and achievement will be shared in more detail next term through written reports in Week 2 and whānau conferences in Week 3.

A big thank you to the whānau who responded to our recent community survey. Your feedback has helped us check that our strategic goals of Competence, Culture and Character continue to reflect the aspirations you hold for your children and our kura. As we look ahead, your voice will help shape the next stage of our journey.

School Starts: 8.55am -- School Ends: 2.55pm

Report Attendance HERO app or 578 5325 -ext 1

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Health Clinic and Community Wellbeing

Keeping our community well is something we all contribute to. Making thoughtful decisions about when children are well enough to attend school helps protect others while also giving children the time they need to recover. We're very grateful for our free Nurse Practitioner clinic every Tuesday morning. It's a great support for whānau, particularly if you're unsure whether your child is well enough to be at school. With scabies also doing the rounds, please take a moment to read the attached information.

Looking Ahead to Term 4

A reminder that hats must be worn in Term 4. School hats can be purchased from the office for \$25.



Our roll also continues to grow steadily and is now approaching 400 students. While plans for new classrooms are well underway, we need to manage this growth in the meantime. In Term 4, Room 16 (New Entrants) will move into Room 7, with the current Room 7 Year 3 class moving upstairs to the Kōwhai Room.

To help us plan ahead, please contact the office if you know of any children who are likely to enrol at Gate Pā School in Term 4 or during 2027.

Term 4 begins on the 12 October. Key term dates will be published on HERO and Facebook during the second week of the school holidays.

Thank you

The support we feel from our community was so evident through the incredible backing of our Monty the Monster fundraiser, which raised more than \$35,000. We really do have an amazing community that comes together for our tamariki. Fingers crossed the prizes arrive this week!

Tūmeke koutou!

Rochelle Jensen – Principal / Tumuaki

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Our Strategic Plan focuses on nurturing Competence, Character, and Culture.
Here's how we're progressing with CULTURE:

Celebrating Culture, Language and Identity.

- Regular language weeks, whānau events and cultural sessions celebrate the languages, cultures and heritage of our diverse community.
- Multicultural Learning Hub, ESOL English Club, and "How to Help with Reading at Home" sessions have strengthened support for our migrant whānau.



Strengthening Te Reo Māori, Tikanga and Local Stories

- Exploring Matariki through The Arts.
- Rā Whakangahau for Kapa Haka performance groups.
- Te Wiki o te Reo Māori celebrated school-wide.
- Several staff participating in Te Kura Raunui (Te Reo Māori training).
- Recognising students who demonstrate exceptional manaakitanga.



Ongoing improvements to our school environment to support learning and well-being.

- Sensory spaces: junior and senior spaces now available.
- Focused learning environments: Desk-based learning is being trialled in Room 15, with positive early results.
- Improved shade: All-weather dome on track for Term 1, 2027.
- Toilet upgrades: Planned for 2027.
- Increased airflow upstairs: Improvements planned for 2027.



Strengthening Attendance Together

- Removing barriers: Our nurse-led clinic and additional van are helping whānau when health or transport gets in the way.
- Acting early: Our school attendance team regularly checks attendance trends and follows up with whānau when concerns arise. Chronic unexplained absences are reported to Attendance Services.
- Getting back on track: Recent illness has affected attendance, but we hope everyone is now feeling better and are pleased to see attendance rates improving.

Next term, we'll share our updates on our **COMMUNITY** goal.

Scabies

(you say, skay-bees)

Scabies is caused by a tiny insect known as a mite which digs under the skin and lays eggs. Small blisters grow on the skin above each egg and the skin gets very itchy. The redness and small blisters look like a rash on the skin.

The scabies rash may start anywhere but it is usually between fingers, on wrists, inside the elbow, around the waist, on the bottom or private parts and under armpits.



What to do

- Go to a doctor or call the school nurse or public health nurse to get an insecticide (you say, insect-a-side) cream to kill the mites. If your child is under 2 years old, they may need a different treatment so make sure you check with your doctor or nurse.
- Get enough cream to treat everyone in the household. Everyone should be treated even if they don't have a rash or itch.
- Apply cream to everyone in the family or household on the same day.
- The cream has to go all over the body, from head to toe - including the soles of feet.
- The cream must be left on overnight.
- On the same day as putting the cream on everyone you also need to wash all sheets, pillow cases, towels and clothes in hot water - or you need to put these things into a sealed plastic bag for 5 days to kill the mites. If you don't do these things, the mites will reinfect your family.
- Hang quilts and blankets outside for a day so the sun can kill any mites.
- Check other family members for scabies.

Time off from kura or school

At least one day after treatment with the insecticide cream.

What to do if scabies gets worse

- Once you have killed the scabies mites with the cream, the sores or the rash will stop growing but it will still be itchy for up to four weeks.
- The sores and rash can become infected.
- Go to the doctor if the sores or rash get redder, warm, start swelling or have pus. This could be cellulitis.

You may also need to repeat the treatment of the whole family with the insecticide cream.

If your child's scabies has turned to cellulitis, your child may need blood tests and antibiotics.



How is scabies spread?

Skin contact with the infected person, and sharing sheets and clothes.



It is important to take the antibiotics every day until they are finished, even if the scabies has cleared up earlier. The antibiotics need to keep killing the infection in the body after the skin has healed.